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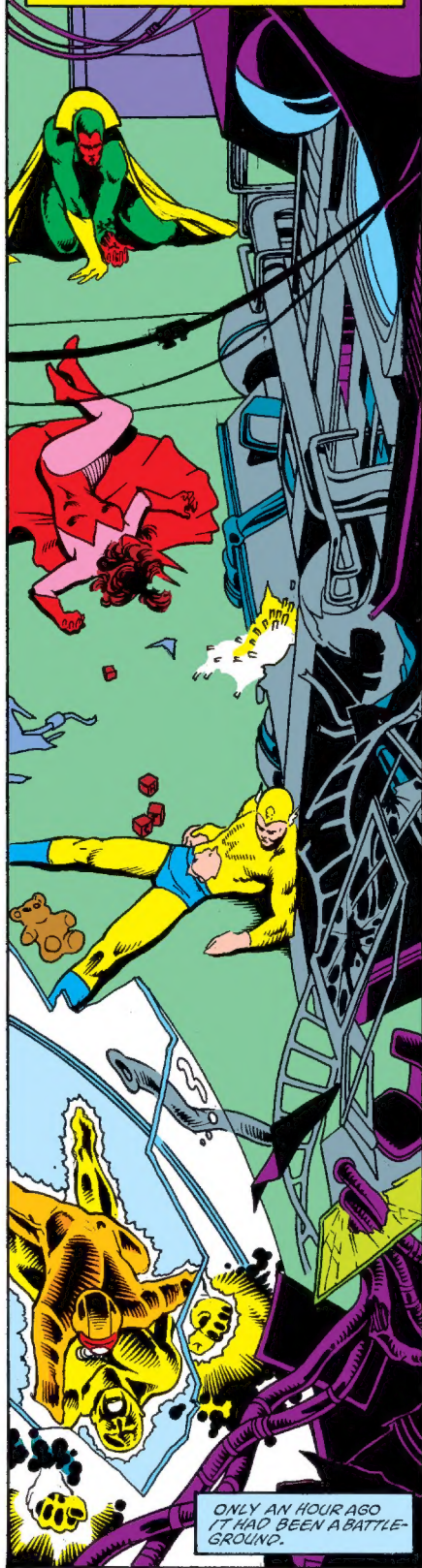
VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH™



NO MATTER
HOW FAST THE
WHIZZER
RUNS--HE CAN'T
ESCAPE THE PAST!



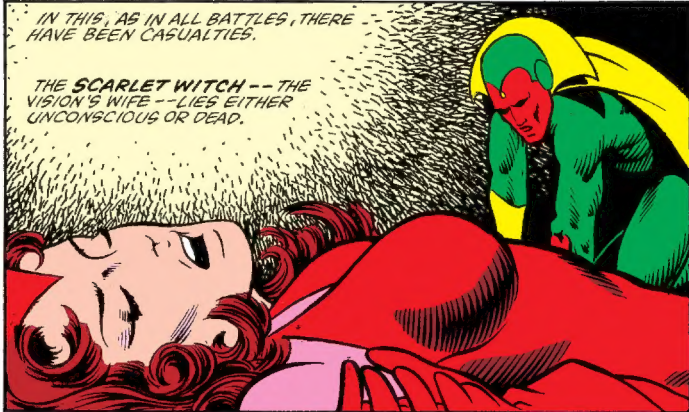
THE PLACE IS CALLED THE **NURSERY**--
A VERY SPECIAL 'DAY CARE CENTER FOR A
VERY SPECIAL "CHILD".



ONLY AN HOUR AGO
IT HAD BEEN A BATTLE-
GROUND.

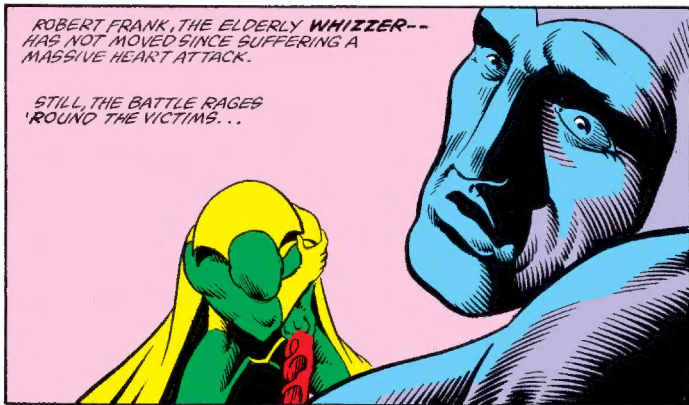
IN THIS, AS IN ALL BATTLES, THERE
HAVE BEEN CASUALTIES.

THE **SCARLET WITCH**--THE
VISION'S WIFE--LIES EITHER
UNCONSCIOUS OR DEAD.



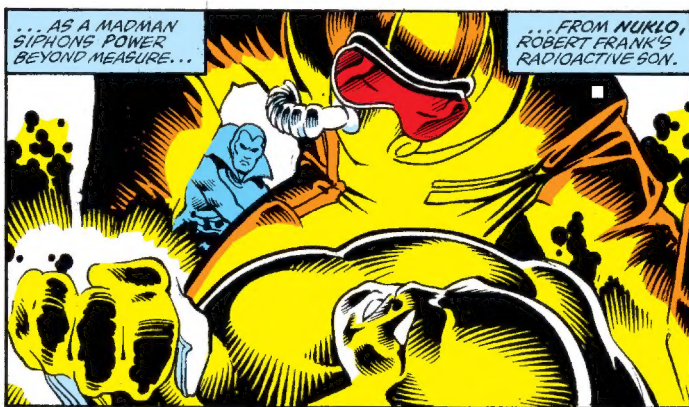
ROBERT FRANK, THE ELDERLY **WHIZZER**--
HAS NOT MOVED SINCE SUFFERING A
MASSIVE HEART ATTACK.

STILL, THE BATTLE RAGES
'ROUND THE VICTIMS...



... AS A MADMAN
SIPHONS POWER
BEYOND MEASURE...

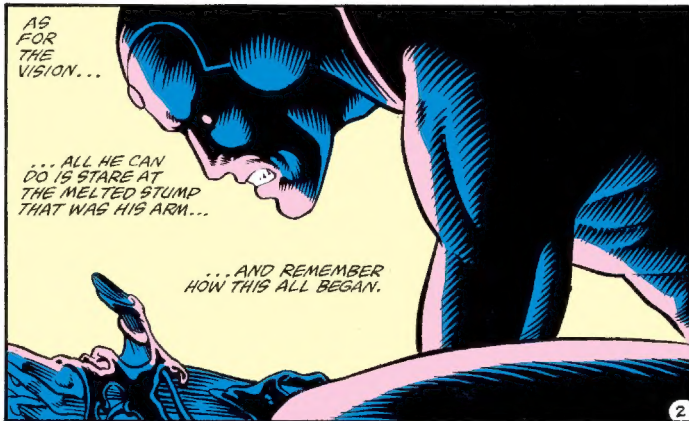
... FROM **NURLO**,
ROBERT FRANK'S
RADIOACTIVE SON.

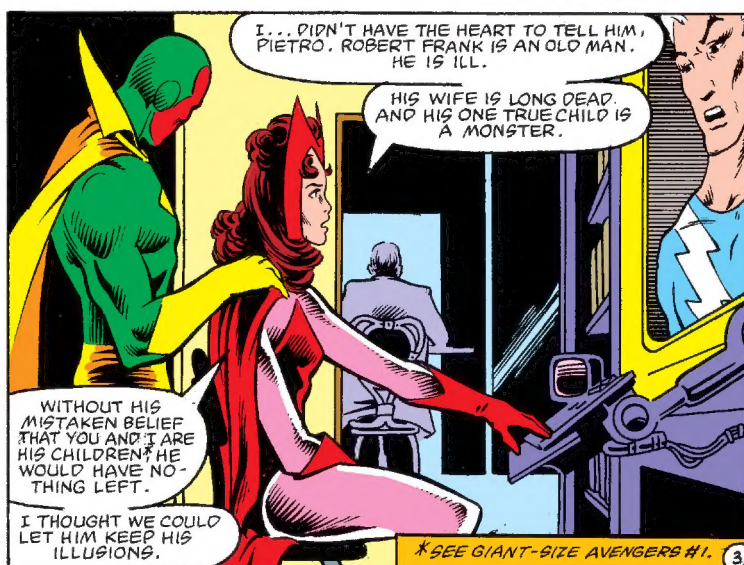
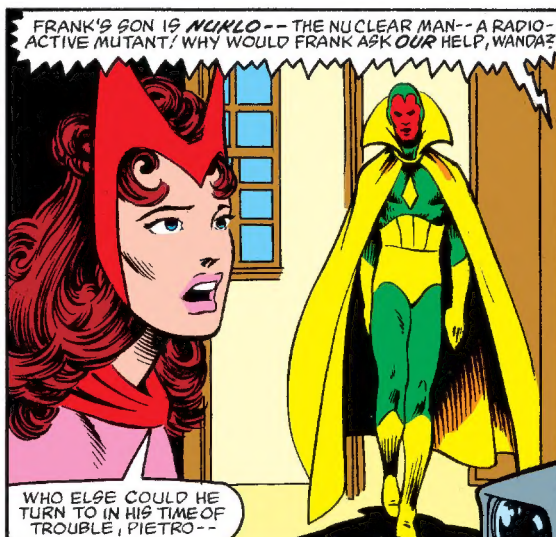
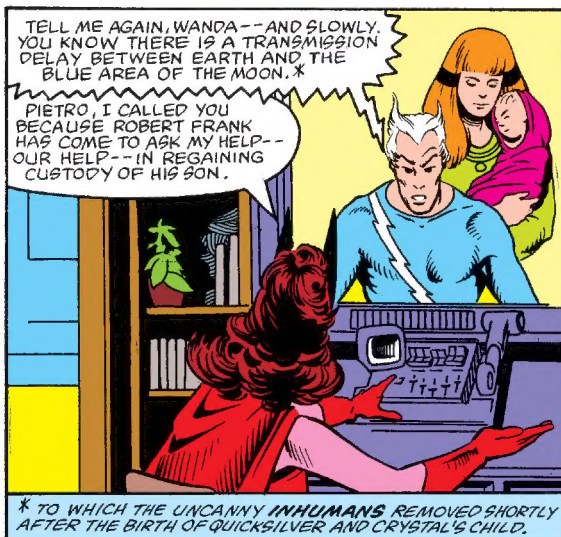
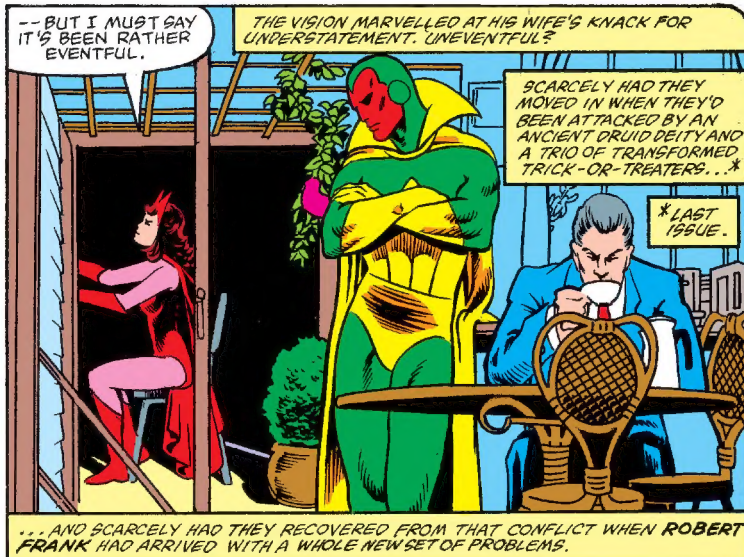
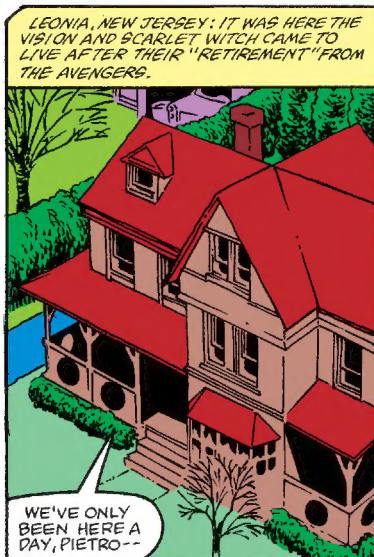


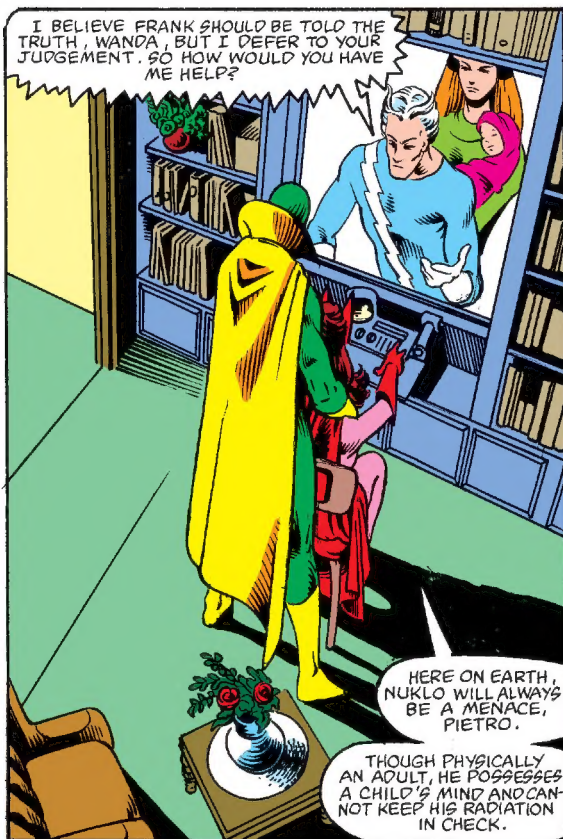
AS
FOR
THE
VISION...

... ALL HE CAN
DO IS STARE AT
THE MELTED STUMP
THAT WAS HIS ARM...

... AND REMEMBER
HOW THIS ALL BEGAN.







I BELIEVE FRANK SHOULD BE TOLD THE TRUTH, WANDA, BUT I DEFER TO YOUR JUDGEMENT. SO HOW WOULD YOU HAVE ME HELP?

HERE ON EARTH, NUKLO WILL ALWAYS BE A MENACE, PIETRO.

THOUGH PHYSICALLY AN ADULT, HE POSSESSES A CHILD'S MIND AND CANNOT KEEP HIS RADIATION IN CHECK.



SO YOU WOULD HELP FRANK WIN CUSTODY OF HIS MUTATED SON, AND HAVE BOTH RESETTLED HERE IN FABLED ATTILAN--

-- WHERE A CURE FOR THE CHILD'S DEADLY POWERS COULD BE SOUGHT BY OUR SCIENTISTS?

WHY NOT, DARLING? OUR DOCTORS KNOW SO MUCH MORE THAN HUMAN SCIENTISTS. ABOUT GENETIC MUTATIONS.



AND, PIETRO, WITH A GUARANTEE OF RELOCATION OFF EARTH, I'M SURE THE COURTS WOULD LET OUR FATH... ROBERT FRANK TAKE CUSTODY OF HIS SON.

VERY WELL, MY SISTER.



I WILL TAKE IT UP WITH MY LIEGE, BLACK BOLT. I THINK HE WILL AGREE.

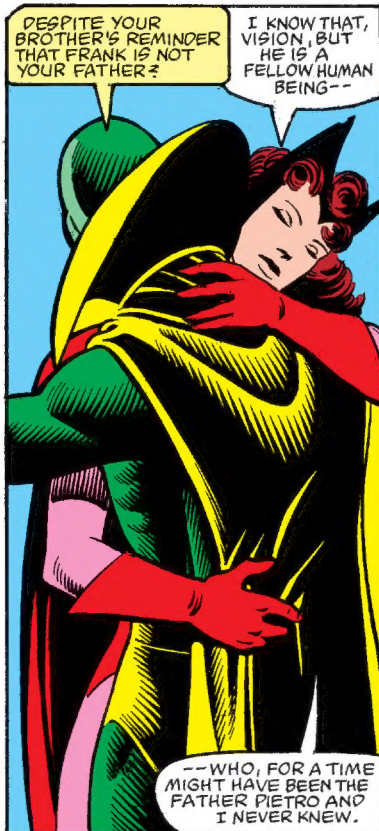
PEACE, WANDA.



THE TRANSMISSION ENDS. THE COMMUNICATOR WITHDRAWS BACK INTO THE LIBRARY SHELVES.

MY WIFE, YOU AND I MUST TALK.

IF IT'S ABOUT ROBERT FRANK, VISION, MY MIND'S MADE UP.

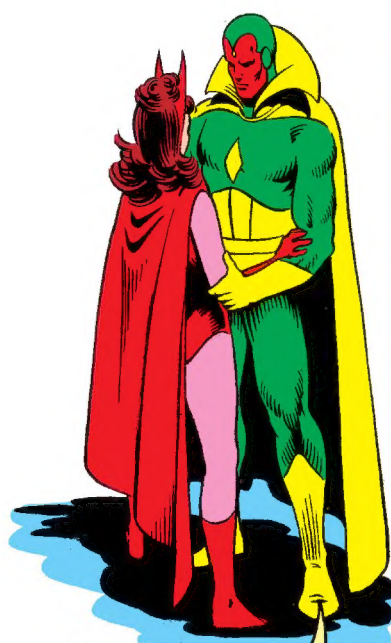


DESPITE YOUR BROTHER'S REMINDER THAT FRANK IS NOT YOUR FATHER?

I KNOW THAT, VISION, BUT HE IS A FELLOW HUMAN BEING--

--WHO, FOR A TIME MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FATHER PIETRO AND I NEVER KNEW.

THE ASSUMPTION OF A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANOTHER IS A TYPICALLY HUMAN REACTION, ONE QUITE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WOMAN I CHOSE TO MARRY.



I AM A SYNTHOZOID, AND YET I UNDERSTAND.



WE WERE HAPPY TO BELIEVE THAT UNTIL WE DISCOVERED THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE FALSE, AND OUR TRUE FATHER AS HIDDEN FROM US AS EVER.

THE TRUTH HAS MADE PIETRO AND I ORPHANS AGAIN.



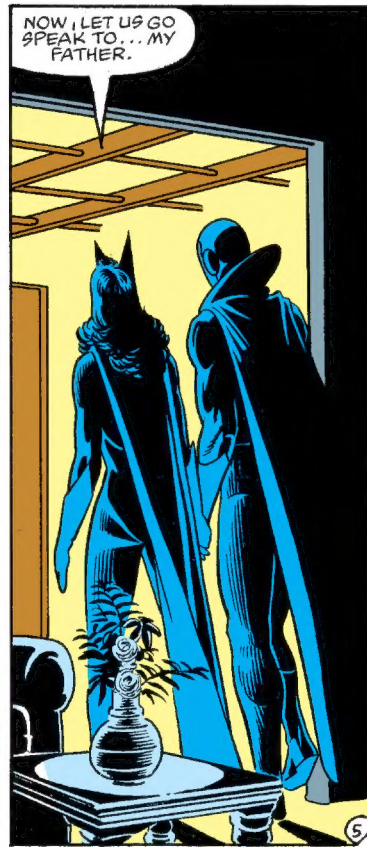
I KNOW YOU DO, DARLING.

THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU.

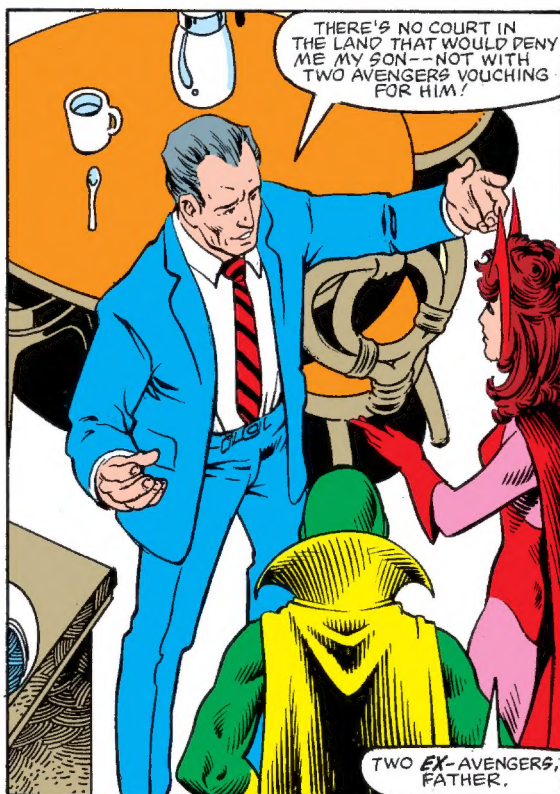
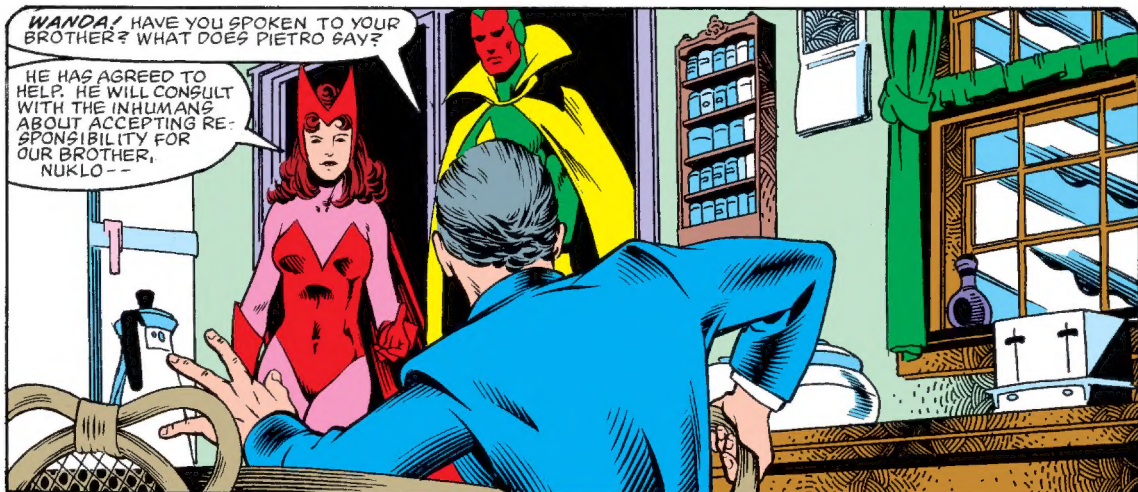


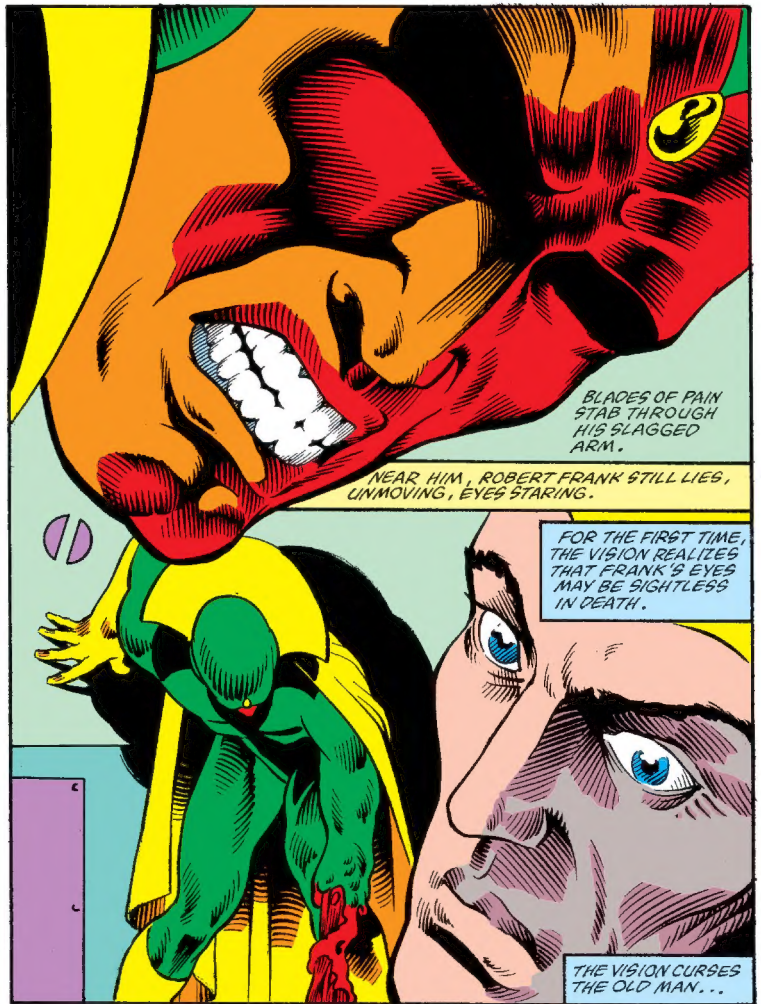
BUT, IF ONLY FOR THE MOMENTARY JOY IT GAVE US TO THINK THAT ROBERT FRANK **WAS** OUR FATHER--

-- I OWE HIM THE HELP HE ASKS FOR NOW.



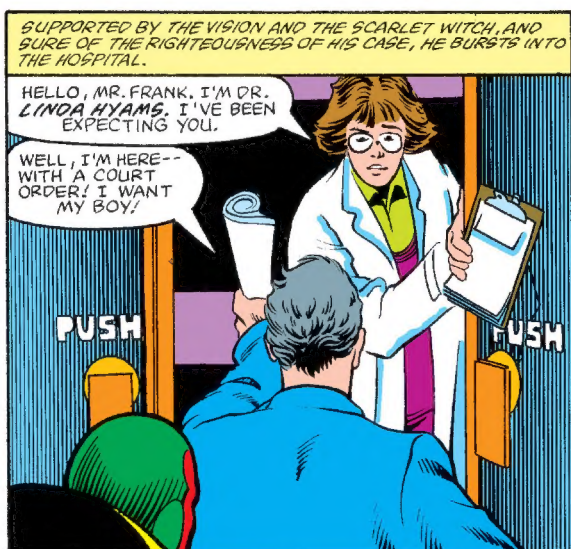
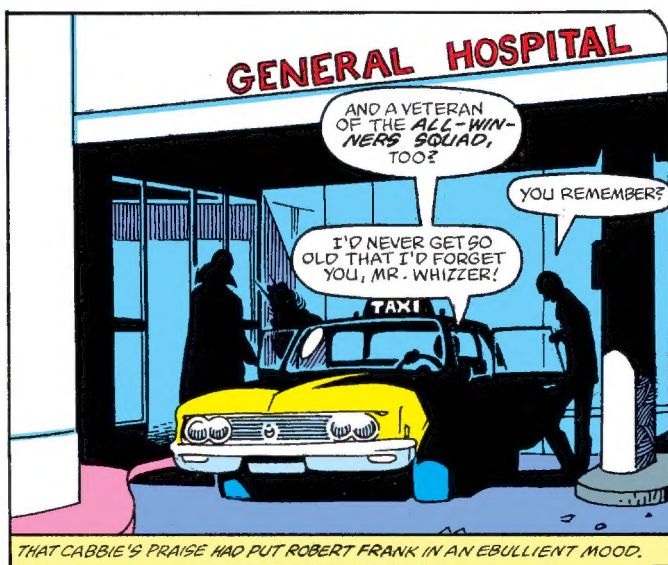
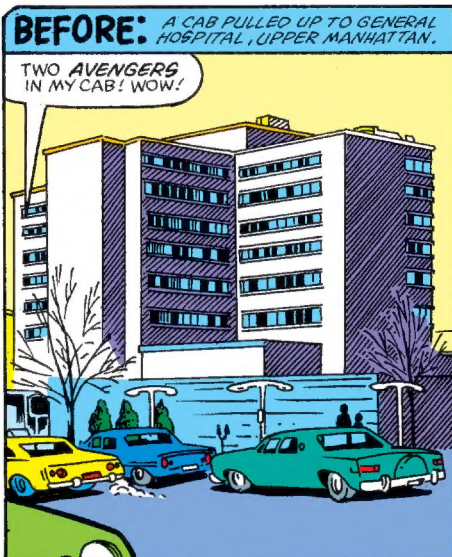
NOW, LET US GO SPEAK TO... MY FATHER.

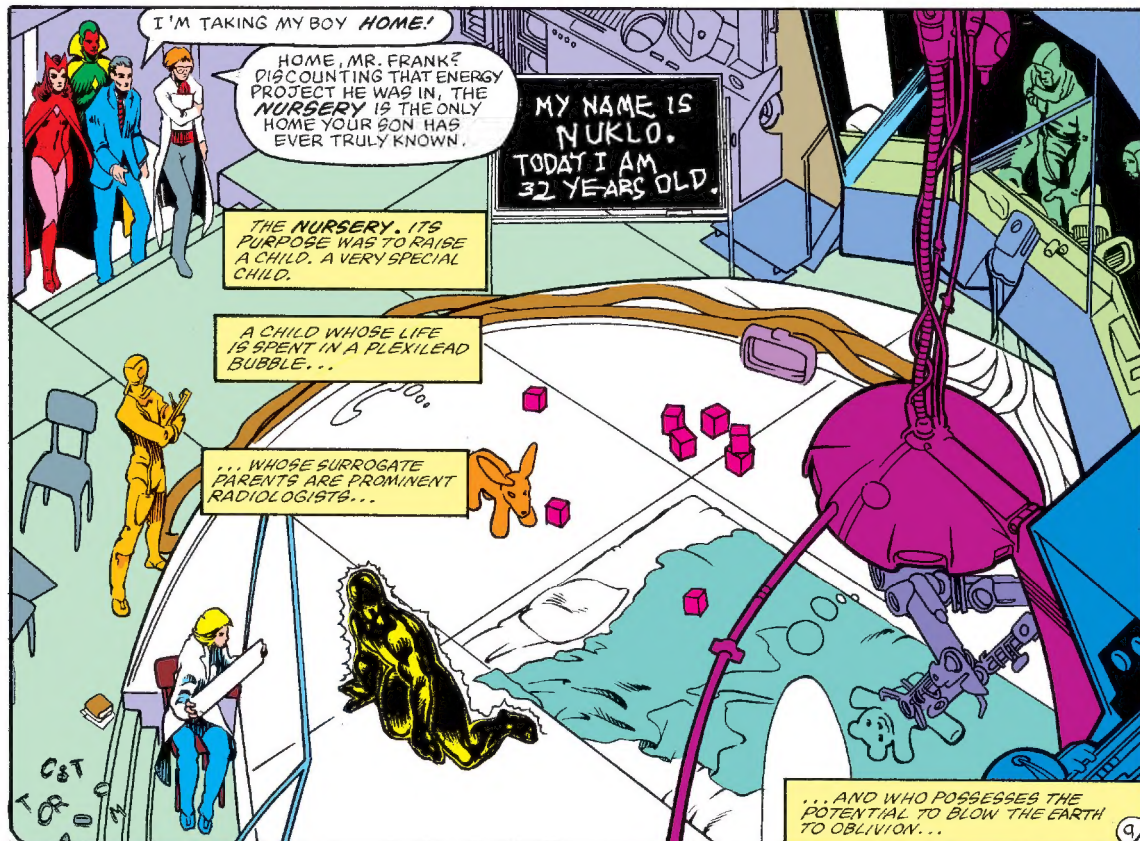
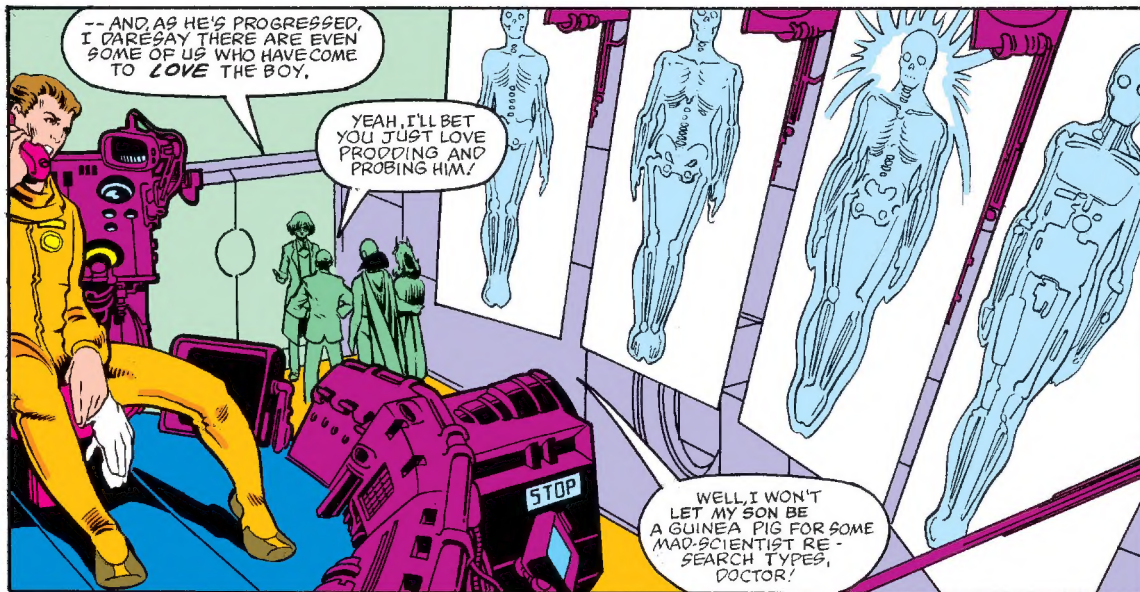
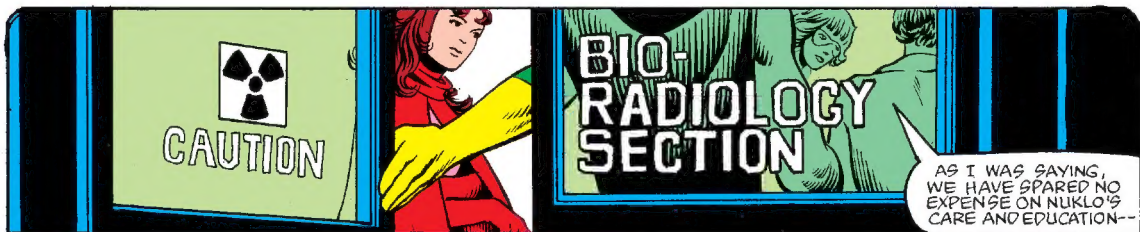




... AND PRAYS THAT FRANK'S FEEBLE FOLLY HAS NOT ALSO CLAIMED THE LIFE OF HIS BELOVED.



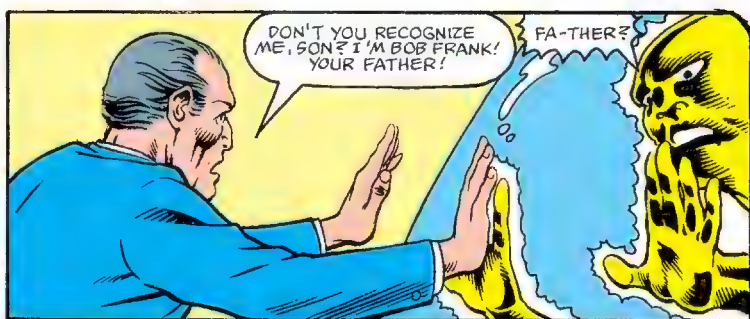






HERE IS THE CHILD YOU HAVE JUST WON CUSTODY OVER...MAY THE LORD HELP YOU!

NUKLO!
MY BOY! MY BOY!



DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, SON? I'M BOB FRANK! YOUR FATHER!

FA-THER?



DR. HYAMS, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WHO ARE THESE INTRUDERS?

THEY ARE HERE TO TAKE CUSTODY OF NUKLO, DOCTOR BISHOFF, PURSUANT TO THE COURT ORDER OF WHICH I TOLD YOU.



OH, THAT. ALL RIGHT.

LET ME SEE FRANK ALONE, HAVE THE OTHERS WAIT.

LIKE ALL THE SCIENTISTS ATTENDING NUKLO, THIS ONE WORE A RADIATION SUIT. UNLIKE THE REST, HE SEEMED AT EASE IN HIS.



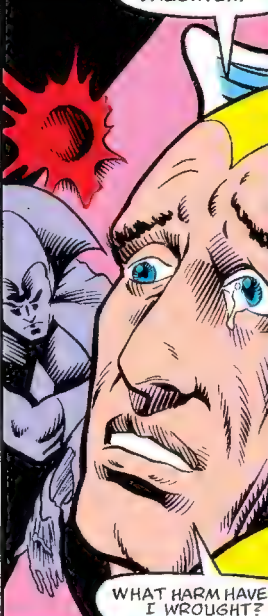
THAT'S DR. IS. BISHOFF, HEAD OF THE NURSERY.

GO, FATHER. THE VISION AND I WILL STAY WITH NUKLO.

ALL RIGHT, WANDA! AFTER ALL, THEY CAN'T DISSUADE ME NOW!

NOW: THE VISION WISHES THEY HAD DISSUADED HIM...

MY SON! MY DAUGHTER!



WHAT HARM HAVE I WROUGHT?

SURPRISE AND ANGER SEIZE THE VISION AS HE REALIZES THAT ROBERT FRANK STILL LIVES!



YOU OLD FOOL! WANDA IS NOT YOUR...!

BUT HE CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO UTTER THE WORDS HIS WIFE WOULD NOT HAVE UTTERED.

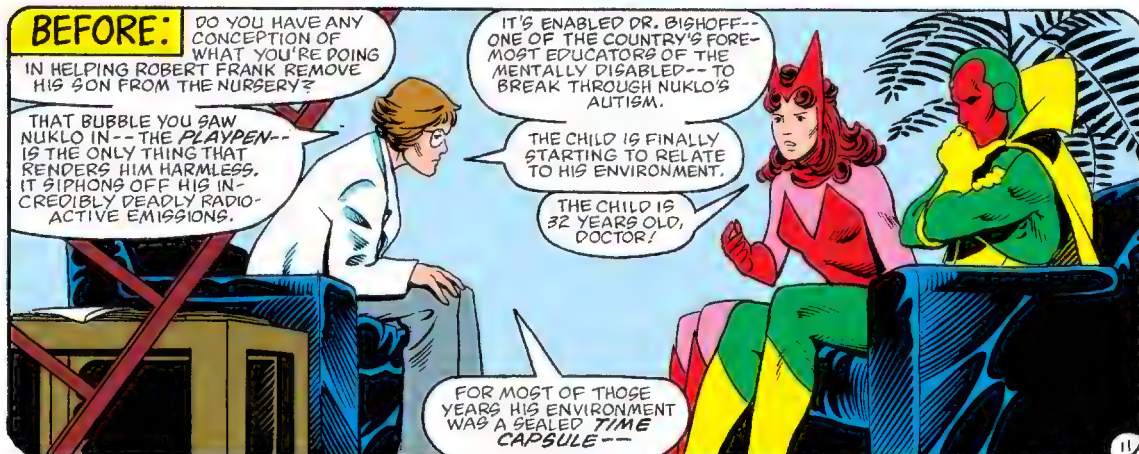


DEAD? HE'S NOT DEAD?!



NO, SHE IS NOT YOUR DAUGHTER.

AT LAST HE HISSES IT... TOO SOFTLY FOR THE OLD MAN'S EARS TO HEAR...



BEFORE:

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCEPTION OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN HELPING ROBERT FRANK REMOVE HIS SON FROM THE NURSERY?

THAT BUBBLE YOU SAW NUKLO IN-- THE PLAYPEN-- IS THE ONLY THING THAT RENDERS HIM HARMLESS. IT SIPHONS OFF HIS INCREDIBLY DEADLY RADIO-ACTIVE EMISSIONS.

IT'S ENABLED DR. BISHOFF-- ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST EDUCATORS OF THE MENTALLY DISABLED-- TO BREAK THROUGH NUKLO'S AUTISM.


THE CHILD IS FINALLY STARTING TO RELATE TO HIS ENVIRONMENT.

THE CHILD IS 32 YEARS OLD, DOCTOR!

FOR MOST OF THOSE YEARS HIS ENVIRONMENT WAS A SEALED TIME CAPSULE--

-- WHEREIN HE LAY IGNORED BY A WORLD WHICH, UNABLE TO CURE WHAT IT HAD CREATED, TRIED TO FORGET HIM.

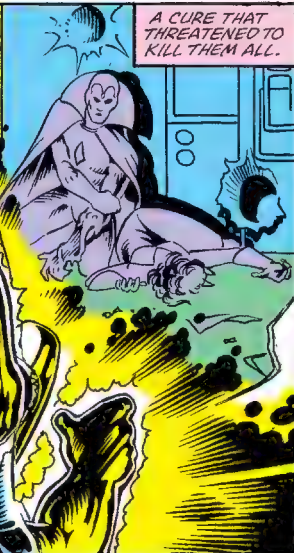
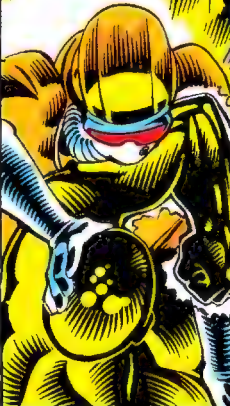
I KNOW NUKLO'S HISTORY, MS. FRANK--



-- BUT YOU'RE TAKING NUKLO AWAY JUST WHEN DR. BISHOFF IS ON THE VERGE OF FINDING A CURE!

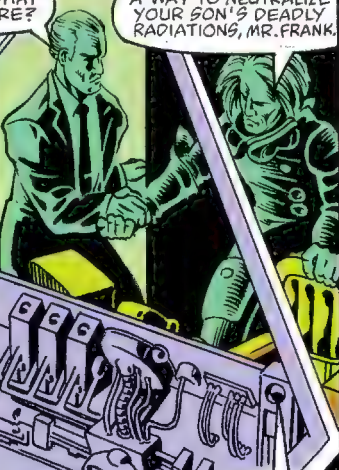
YES, DR. BISHOFF HAD FOUND A CURE.

A CURE THAT THREATENED TO KILL THEM ALL.



A CURE? WHAT KIND OF CURE?

A WAY TO NEUTRALIZE YOUR SON'S DEADLY RADIATIONS, MR. FRANK.



PLEASE, SIT DOWN.

THEY TOLD ME NUKLO WOULD NEVER BE CURED.

THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW!



"THEY" WERE NOT DR. I.S. BISHOFF.

YES, I HAVE DONE FAR MORE THAN MERELY BRING YOUR SON OUT OF HIS AUTISTIC WITHDRAWAL.

I HAVE ACTIVELY SOUGHT A CURE THAT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO ESCAPE INSTITUTIONALIZATION.



LET HIM TAKE HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD!

YES! THAT'S WHAT I WANT FOR NUKLO!

A NORMAL LIFE!



TRUST ME, AND SOON HE SHALL HAVE ONE.

HOW?!



I HAVE BEEN SLOWLY SIPHONING OFF NUKLO'S DEADLY ENERGIES.

ALREADY THE EMISSIONS HAVE BEEN HALVED.



BUT WHERE HAVE YOU DISPERSED ALL THAT RADIO-ACTIVITY TO?

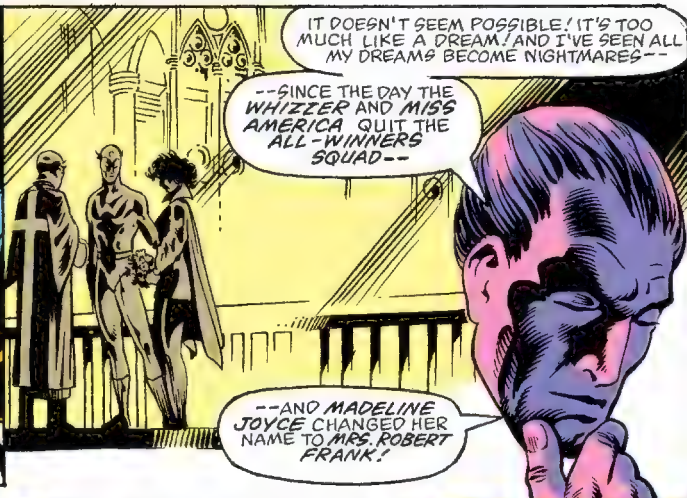




I'M GLAD YOU ASKED THAT QUESTION, MR. FRANK.

VERY GLAD!

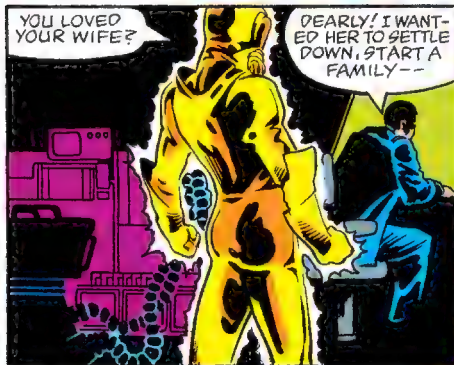
A NORMAL LIFE FOR NUKLO...?



IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE! IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE A DREAM! AND I'VE SEEN ALL MY DREAMS BECOME NIGHTMARES--

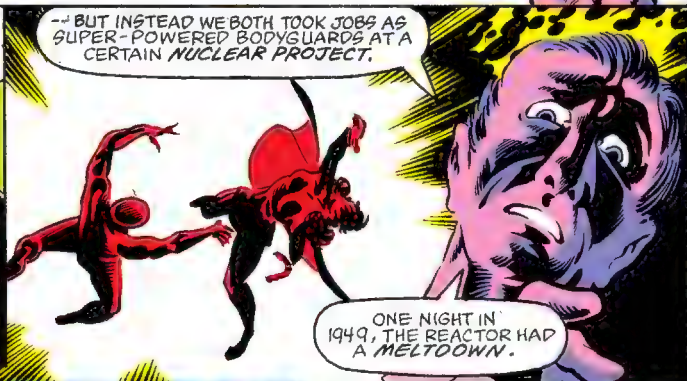
--SINCE THE DAY THE WHIZZER AND MISS AMERICA QUIT THE ALL-WINNERS SQUAD--

--AND MADELINE JOYCE CHANGED HER NAME TO MRS. ROBERT FRANK!



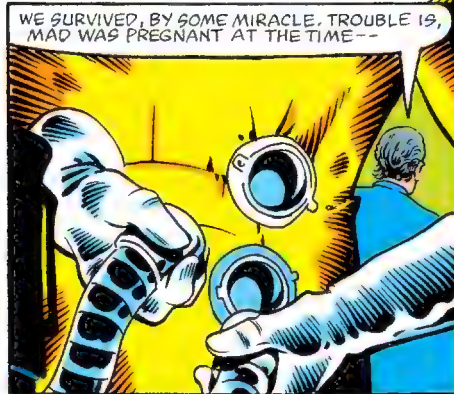
YOU LOVED YOUR WIFE?

DEARLY! I WANTED HER TO SETTLE DOWN, START A FAMILY--

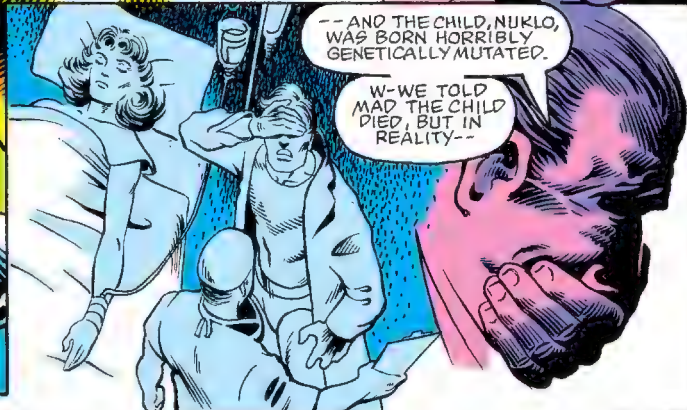


--BUT INSTEAD WE BOTH TOOK JOBS AS SUPER-POWERED BODYGUARDS AT A CERTAIN NUCLEAR PROJECT.

ONE NIGHT IN 1949, THE REACTOR HAD A MELTDOWN.



WE SURVIVED, BY SOME MIRACLE. TROUBLE IS, MAD WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME--



--AND THE CHILD, NUKLO, WAS BORN HORRIBLY GENETICALLY MUTATED.

W-WE TOLD MAD THE CHILD DIED, BUT IN REALITY--



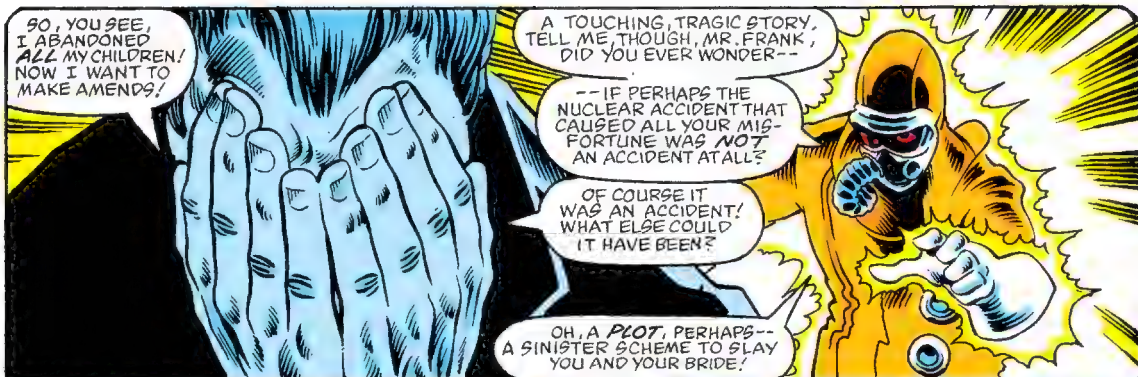
--I AGREED TO HAVE MY OWN SON SEALED IN A TIME CAPSULE!

YOU HAD TWO OTHER CHILDREN, DID YOU NOT?



YES, WANDA AND PIETRO. BUT THEIR BIRTHS CAUSED MADELINE'S DEATH.

IN MY GRIEF, I LEFT THEM WITH THEIR NON-HUMAN MID-WIFE IN WUNDAGORE.



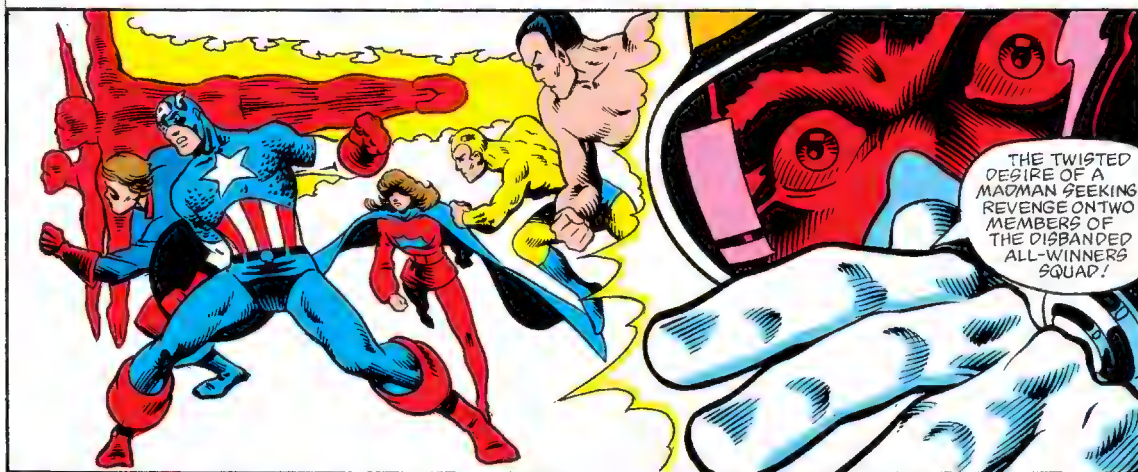
SO, YOU SEE,
I ABANDONED
ALL MY CHILDREN!
NOW I WANT TO
MAKE AMENDS!

A TOUCHING, TRAGIC STORY,
TELL ME, THOUGH, MR. FRANK,
DID YOU EVER WONDER--

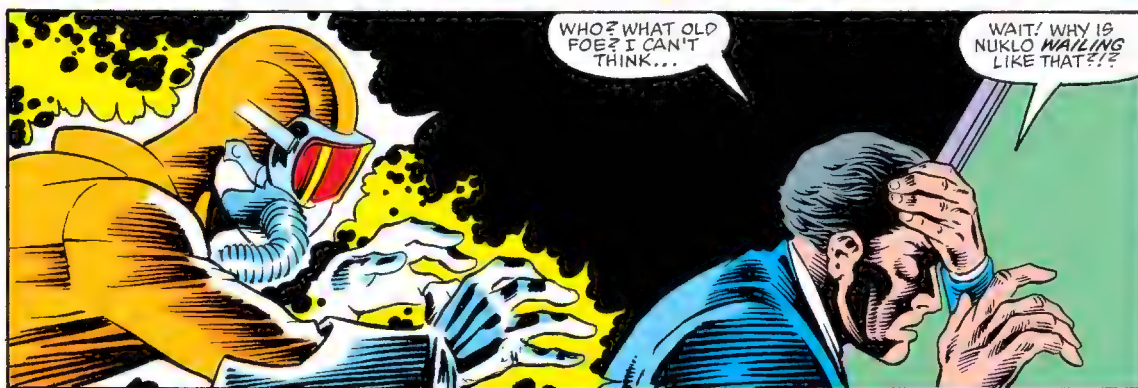
--IF PERHAPS THE
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT THAT
CAUSED ALL YOUR MIS-
FORTUNE WAS *NOT*
AN ACCIDENT AT ALL?

OF COURSE IT
WAS AN ACCIDENT!
WHAT ELSE COULD
IT HAVE BEEN?

OH, A PLOT, PERHAPS--
A SINISTER SCHEME TO SLAY
YOU AND YOUR BRIDE!



THE TWISTED
DESIRE OF A
MADMAN SEEKING
REVENGE ON TWO
MEMBERS OF
THE DISBANDED
ALL-WINNERS
SQUAD!

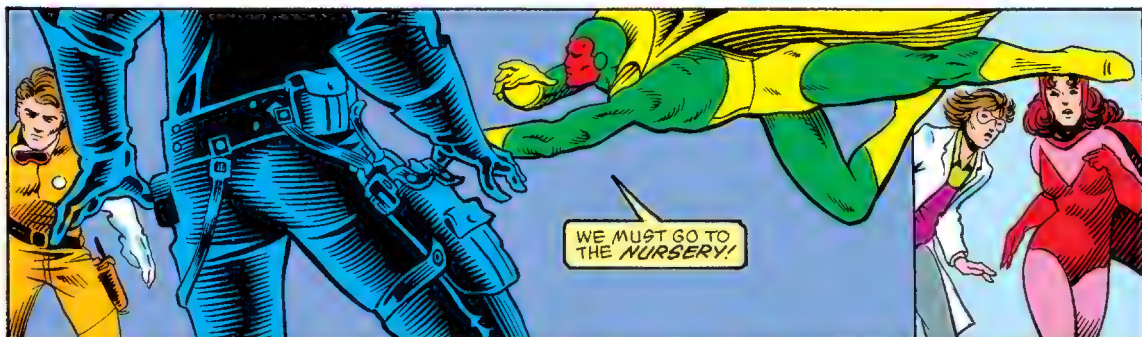
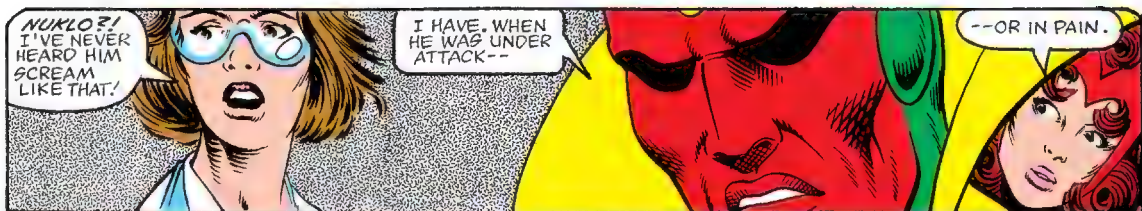


WHO? WHAT OLD
FOE? I CAN'T
THINK...

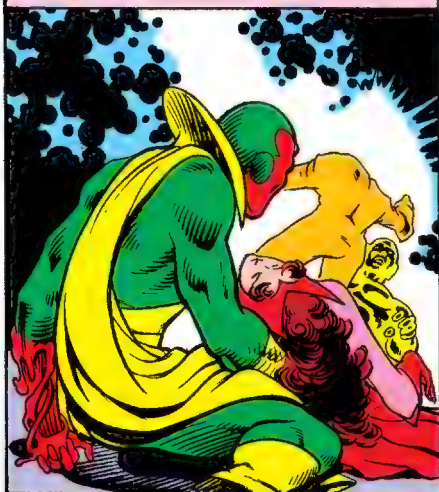
WAIT! WHY IS
NUKLO WAILING
LIKE THAT?!



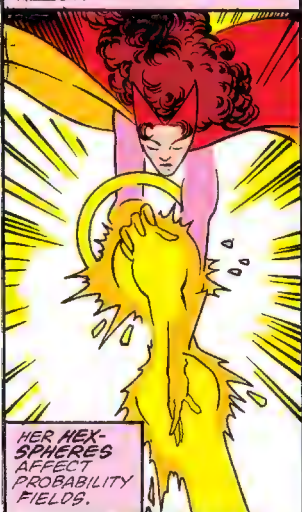
FA-THER!!!



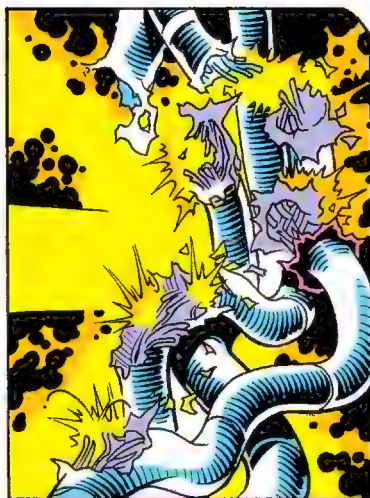
WHOEVER ISBISA WAS, HE SPOKE TRUE. POWER FLOWED FROM THE WAILING NUKLO INTO THE VILLAIN'S RAD-SUIT.



WANDA WAS THE FIRST TO RESIST.



HER HEX-SPHERES AFFECT PROBABILITY FIELDS.



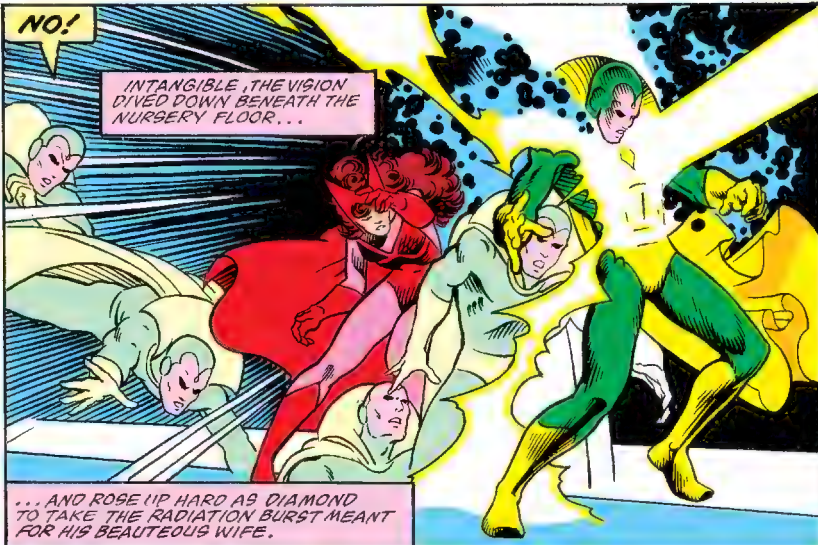
THEY SERVED TO RUPTURE THE CABLES SIPHONING NUKLO'S POWER AWAY TO STRENGTHEN ISBISA.

WITCH! I CRAVED MORE POWER! BUT EVEN NOW I HAVE ENOUGH TO FINISH YOU!



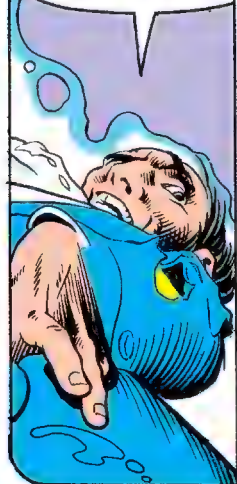
NO!

INTANGIBLE, THE VISION DIVED DOWN BENEATH THE NURSERY FLOOR...



... AND ROSE UP HARD AS DIAMOND TO TAKE THE RADIATION BURST MEANT FOR HIS BEAUTEOUS WIFE.

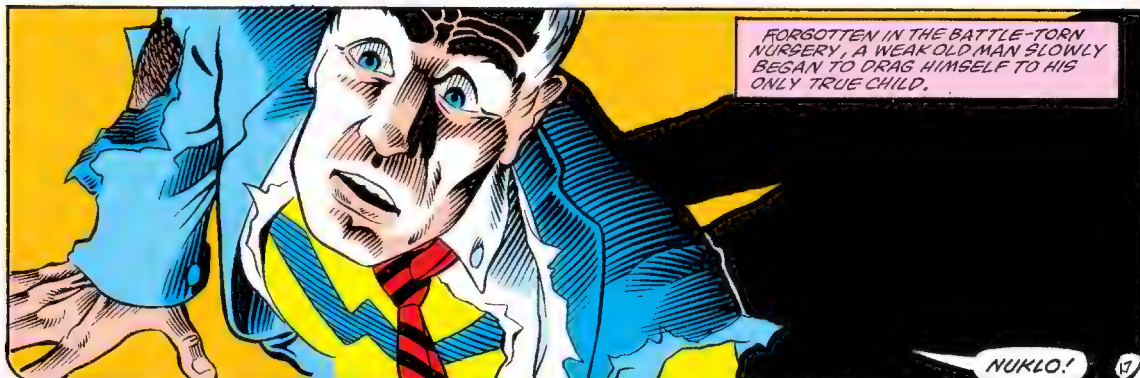
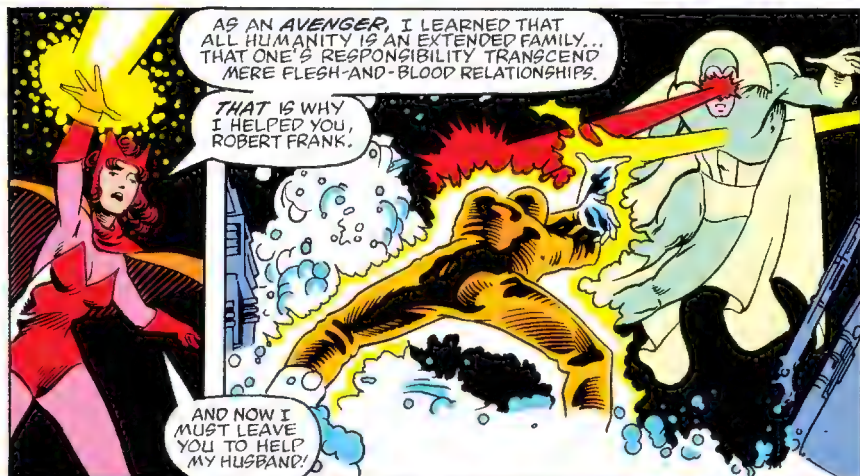
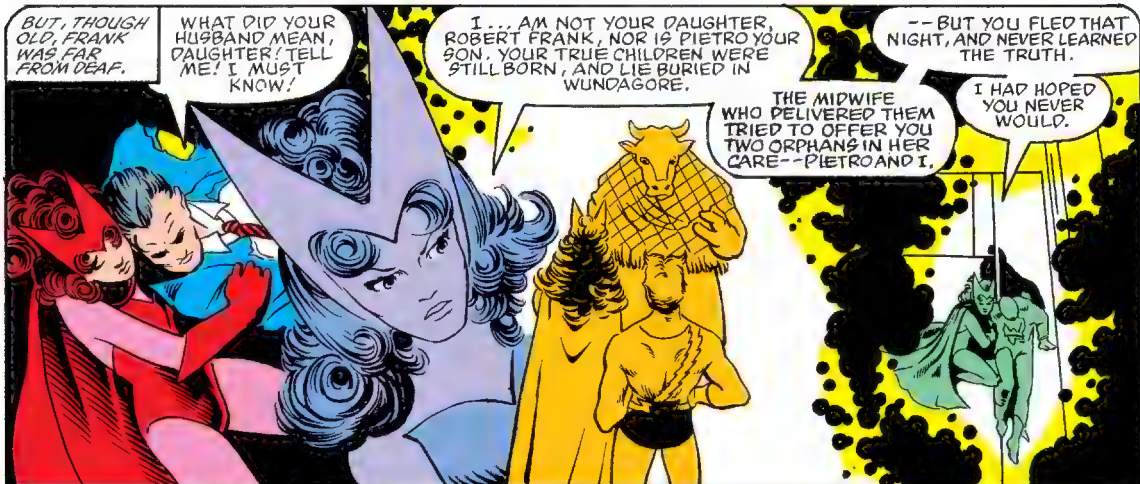
DAUGHTER... LEAVE! ISBISA IS... TOO STRONG! SAVE YOUR BROTHER... AND YOURSELF!

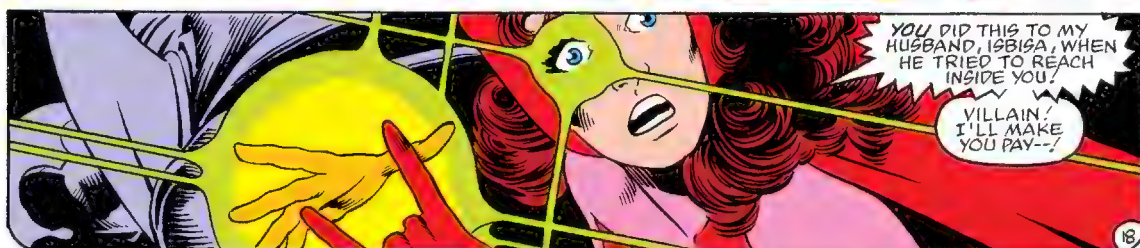
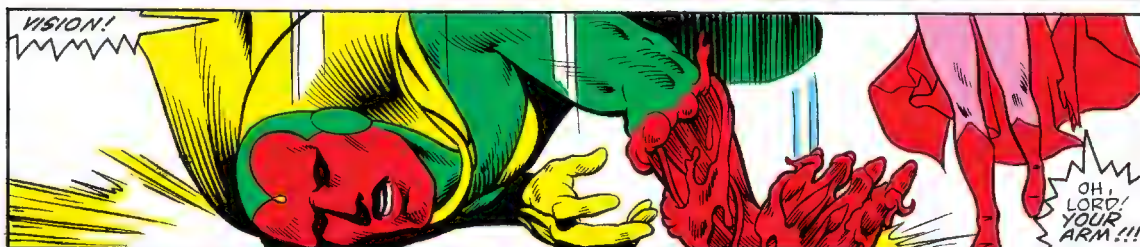
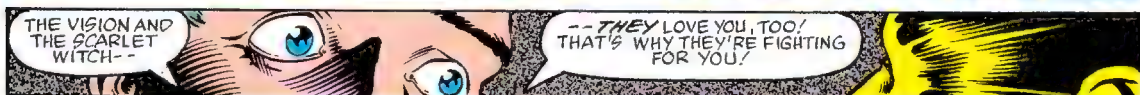
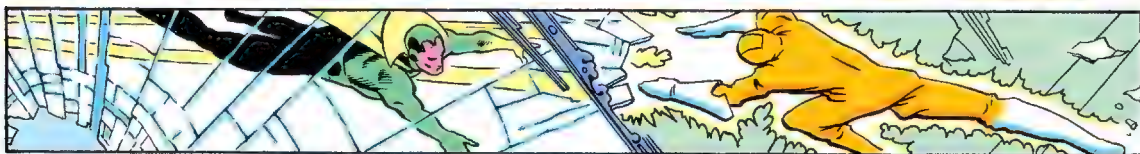


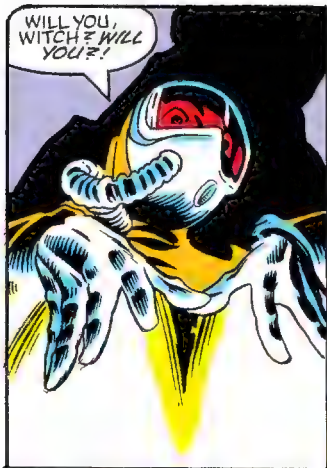
FOOLISH OLD MAN! WANDA IS *NOT* YOUR DAUGHTER! YOU HAVE ENDANGERED HER LIFE NEEDLESSLY!



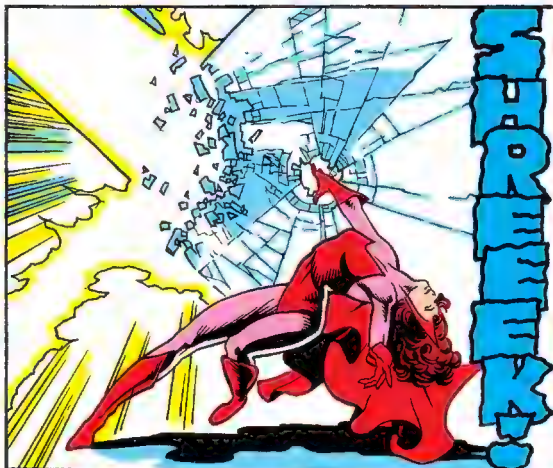
THE VISION CRIED OUT IN ANGER. HE DID NOT THINK ROBERT FRANK HAD HEARD. HE WOULD NOT BETRAY WANDA'S TRUST AGAIN.







WILL YOU,
WITCH? WILL
YOU?!

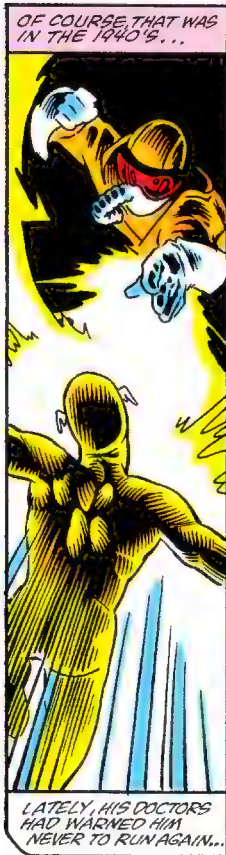


WANDA!

IN HIS PRIME,
ROBERT FRANK
WAS A SUPER
HERO.

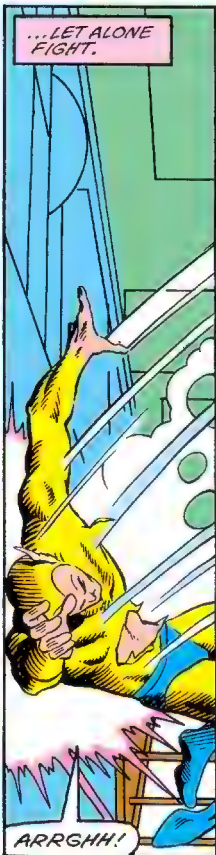


A TRANSFUSION OF
MONGOOSE BLOOD WAS
THE CATALYST THAT
TRANSFORMED THE
WHIZZER INTO THE
FASTEST MAN ON
EARTH.



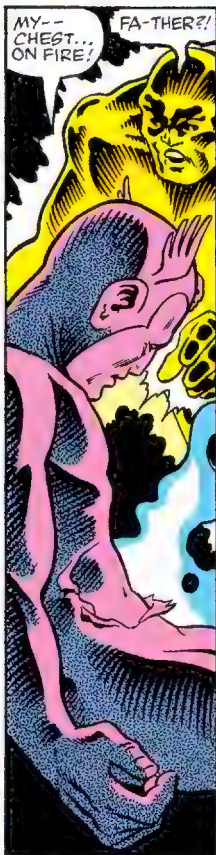
OF COURSE, THAT WAS
IN THE 1940'S...

LATELY, HIS DOCTORS
HAD WARNED HIM
NEVER TO RUN AGAIN...



...LET ALONE
FIGHT.

ARRGH!!



MY--
CHEST...
ON FIRE!

FA-THER?!



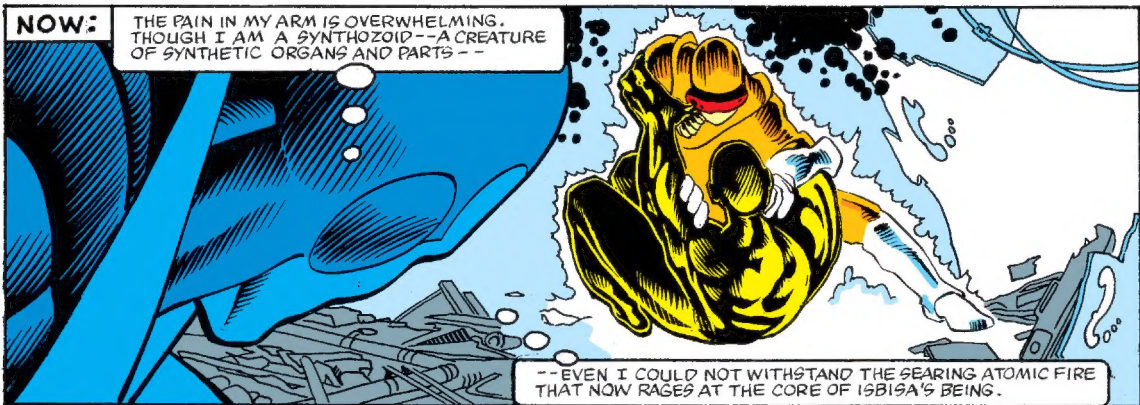
RA
XX

FA-THER!!!



THE VISION'S
MEMORIES COME
FULL CIRCLE.

19



NOW:

THE PAIN IN MY ARM IS OVERWHELMING. THOUGH I AM A SYNTHOZOID--A CREATURE OF SYNTHETIC ORGANS AND PARTS--

--EVEN I COULD NOT WITHSTAND THE SEARING ATOMIC FIRE THAT NOW RAGES AT THE CORE OF ISBISA'S BEING.



MY LEFT HAND HAS MELTED. IT IS FUNCTIONALLY USELESS. THE PAIN IMMOBILIZES ME.

IMMOBILE, I CANNOT SAVE MY WIFE.



THEN I MUST CUT OFF THE PAIN.

CUT OFF? IT IS A LOGICAL DECISION...

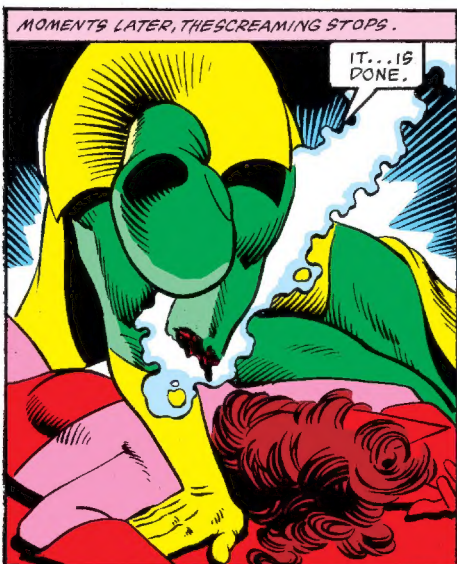


...MADE BY A BEING WHO HAS BEEN CALLED LOGIC INCARNATE, A THINKING MACHINE.

BUT IT IS NO EMOTIONLESS MACHINE WHO TRAINS HIS SOLAR EYEBEAMS UPON THE MELTED STUMP THAT WAS HIS ARM...



...OR SCREAMS IN SOUL-RENDING AGONY AS HE CAUTERIZES HIS OWN WOUND!



MOMENTS LATER, THE SCREAMING STOPS.

IT...IS DONE.



NOW... I MUST SEE... TO WANDA.



THE SCARLET WITCH STIRS.

AT FIRST SHE DOES NOT NOTICE.

THEN THE VISION'S CAPE FALLS ASIDE.



OH, VISION!
MY POOR, DEAR
HUSBAND, YOUR
ARM! YOUR
ARM!

THE PAIN
HAS EASED,
BELOVED--

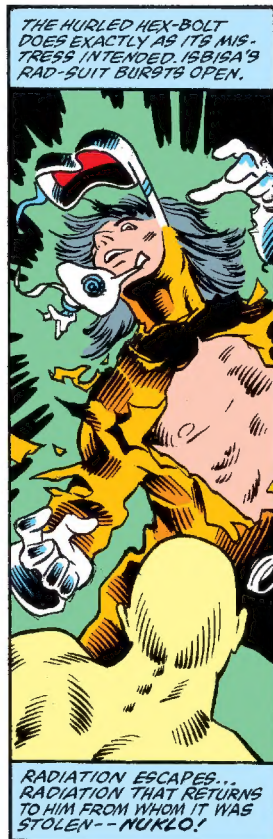


--AND THE
BATTLE
STILL
RAGES!

YES...

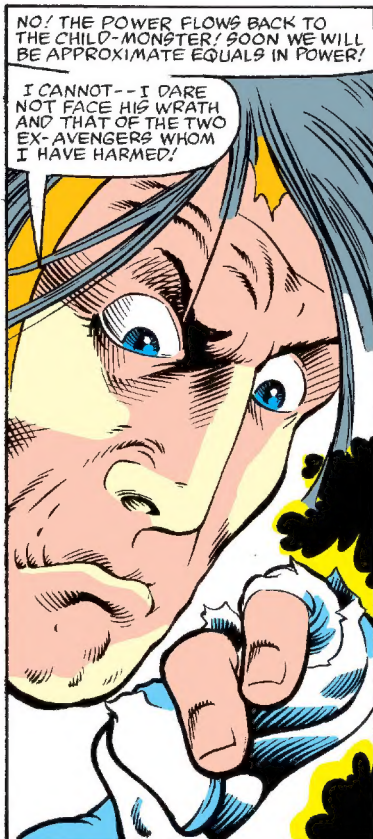


BUT IT
SHALL NOT
FOR LONG!



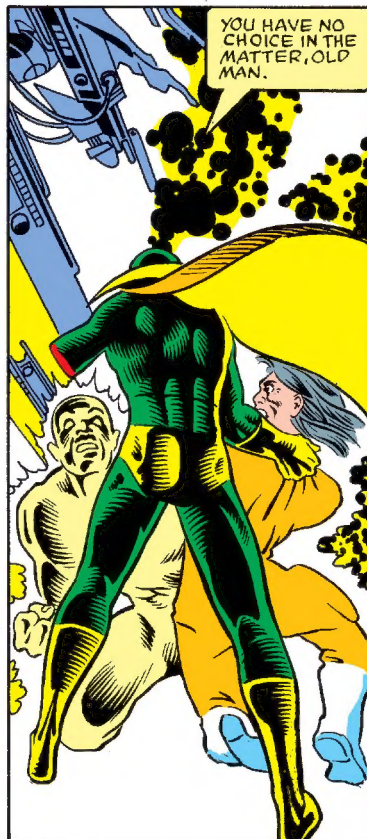
THE HURLED HEX-BOLT
DOES EXACTLY AS ITS MIS-
TRESS INTENDED. ISBISA'S
RAD-SUIT BURSTS OPEN.

RADIATION ESCAPES...
RADIATION THAT RETURNS
TO HIM FROM WHOM IT WAS
STOLEN-- NUKLO!



NO! THE POWER FLOWS BACK TO
THE CHILD-MONSTER! SOON WE WILL
BE APPROXIMATE EQUALS IN POWER!

I CANNOT-- I DARE
NOT FACE HIS WRATH
AND THAT OF THE TWO
EX-AVENGERS WHOM
I HAVE HARMED!



YOU HAVE NO
CHOICE IN THE
MATTER, OLD
MAN.

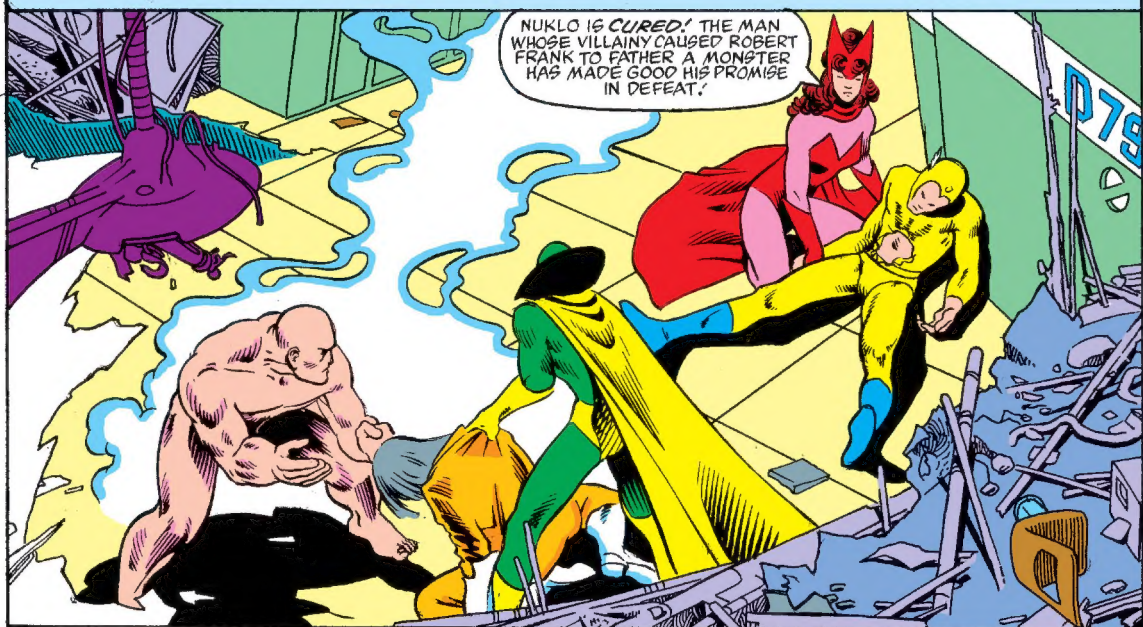


NO CHOICE
AT ALL!

THE NURSERY IS ILLUMINATED IN
AN INCREDIBLE RELEASE OF ENERGY
AS ISBISA EXPENDS IT ALL IN A
DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE
HIMSELF.

HE FAILS... BUT THE ATTEMPT HAS AN UNEXPECTED SIDE-EFFECT. IT TOTALLY SIPHONS BOTH ISBISA'S AND NUKLO'S ATOMIC POWER, LEAVING THEM... HUMAN!

NUKLO IS CURED! THE MAN WHOSE VILLAINY CAUSED ROBERT FRANK TO FATHER A MONSTER HAS MADE GOOD HIS PROMISE IN DEFEAT.

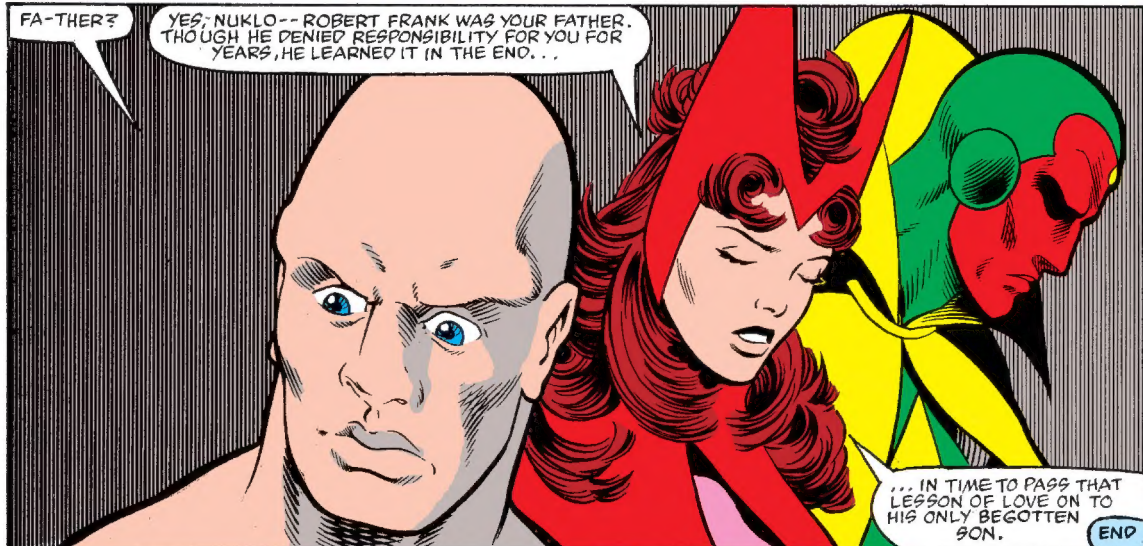


IF ONLY ROBERT FRANK HAD LIVED TO SEE IT!



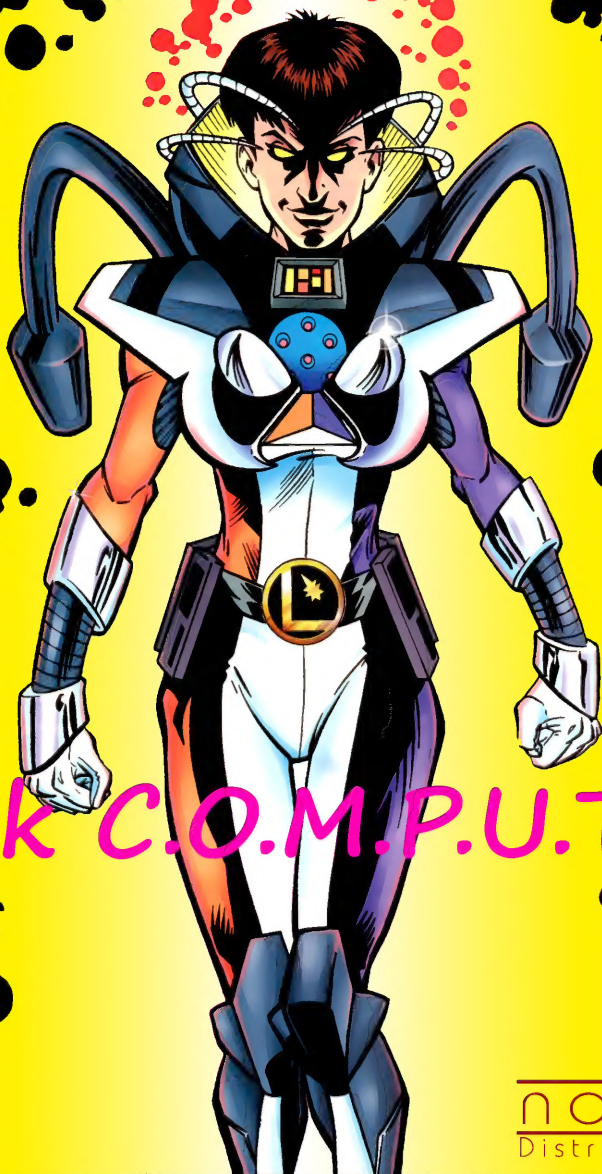
FA-THER?

YES, NUKLO-- ROBERT FRANK WAS YOUR FATHER. THOUGH HE DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOU FOR YEARS, HE LEARNED IT IN THE END...



... IN TIME TO PASS THAT LESSON OF LOVE ON TO HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.

END



OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.

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